



November 21, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Order Establishing Pilot Program under Rural Health Care Funding Mechanism,
WC Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As President of Arizona State University, I write to convey my strong support of the Federal Communications Commission's recent decision to fund the establishment of a pilot program to develop a dedicated, nationwide broadband health care network.

ASU has been a part of Internet2's backbone network for almost 8 years, and as a result, has benefited significantly from its sophisticated ability to network with government research institutions, universities, and other critical entities nationwide, as well as its superior security, capacity and dependability. Thanks to this valuable affiliation, ASU is in the process of developing geospatial tools to combine various public health related data sets (such as position and location of West Nile infections) with civil planning infrastructure data (such as landscaped areas and water catchment sites) in an effort to provide predictive analysis support to preemptive public health response to emerging infections. Both the gathering of data and the delivery of visualization makes use of high-speed network links between health care providers, the university, and decision makers in the region.

ASU recently launched its new School of Computing and Informatics, which incorporates the Center for Health and Information and Research, and the newly created Department of Biomedical Informatics – a joint project with the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix that will be a component of the new Phoenix Biomedical Campus and a significant contributor to advancing telemedicine in Arizona. The program is currently installing a Med Presence Telesuite teleconference room that will connect students and researchers with collaborators including the Mayo Clinic, Banner Health, Barrow Neurological Institute®, and Catholic Healthcare West. ASU partnered with MedPresence to permit them to access Internet 2 via local institution to provide our teleconference capacity. The program is also using the Internet 2 backbone in creating a "4 corners" Biomedical Informatics coalition involving

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University of Utah, New Mexico State University, and University of Colorado Health Sciences Center to share curriculum materials, lectures and presentations, and research activities.

In light of these projects and future endeavors we intend to pursue as part of our evolving vision of the New American University, ASU is uniquely intrigued by the FCC's pilot program to advance development of broadband networks dedicated to medical and health-care-related applications. ASU's current medical and health institution partners include: the Mayo Clinic, Banner Health, Barrow Neurological Institute®, and Catholic Healthcare West, the CPath Institute, Translational Genomics Institute, University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix Program. We are wholly committed to advancing and expanding our work and partnerships in this area and would hope that the FCC's pilot program could be used to help grow these efforts for the benefit of our largely rural state.

Given the articulated purpose and scope of the pilot program, and Internet2's significant experience, broad reach and national membership, ASU believes that having all health-care providers linked to the same backbone network, namely Internet2, is the best and most logical course of action. If the pilot program genuinely seeks to create useful, efficient and interoperable dedicated health care networks, then it must be housed in a single, stable organization that can provide the resources and access necessary to succeed. Our university is not a member of National LambdaRail's backbone. And, as set forth above, the Internet2 backbone offers advanced networking capabilities with extremely high levels of reliability, security, and capacity.

ASU strongly supports the FCC's proactive interest to fund connections between state and regional health care provider networks and the Internet2 backbone and encourages the Commission to affirm its original decision. ASU agrees that such a pilot program will provide health care providers with an important chance to benefit from advanced applications in continuing education and research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michael M. Crow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Crow".

Michael M. Crow
President